



2019 Membership Drive Continues

Dear Friends of Beaver Island,

Happy summer to you! As the snow is finally gone and the lake is starting to warm so are our continued needs. The newsletter you are reading has been printed with the generous support of 230 people who love Beaver Island and have joined our family and became members of the Beaver Island Historical Society in 2019. If you have not had a chance to send in your continued support through membership, please take the time to do it now. If you have already sent in your membership perhaps you could cut the membership coupon off the back and pass it on to someone you know. Maybe you could even supply them with an envelope and a stamp to further encourage them to mail in a membership. Memberships are vital to the Beaver Island Historical Society for two reasons:

1. Monies are used to provide annual operating support including programming such as special events like Museum Week and Music on the Porch, as well as the Directors salary, utilities, new exhibits, newsletters, and property maintenance.
2. Beaver Island Historical Society members and volunteers are vital components in helping us achieve our mission and vision statements.

Our Members and Volunteers enjoy and take pride in sharing our unique history with the thousands of annual visitors to our Island. Tourism is our number one industry on Beaver Island and vital in sustaining our growth and economy.

Thank You, John Fiegen, Development Chairperson

A membership form also found on our website at:
<http://www.beaverislandhistory.org>

Mission Statement:
The purpose of the Society is to preserve and share the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Vision Statement:
The Society will share the unique historical stories of the Archipelago through the renovated and expanded museums.

Inside this issue

Directors Corner	2
Board Members	2
Construction at Print Shop	3
Volunteers	4
What's coming up this summer ..	5
Water Trail a different tour	6
Walking Tour	8
Oral History Project	10
Picnic at the Point	11
Membership renewal	12





Frederick Stonehouse books now available

Directors Corner by Lori Taylor-Blitz

Greetings, and welcome back to the island, or to your “many” memorable thoughts about Beaver Island beautiful summers. This year we have a great line-up of summer programming and I look forward to meeting with many of you in person over the summer in the museums, around town, and at events. What’s new this summer? We have installed a self-guided walking tour at seventeen historical sites designated with interpretive panels. Each sign has a QR code icon. If our visitor’s smartphone has a QR code app., they will be directed to the Historical Society webpage. The signs were made possible by a Great Lakes Energy Peoples Fund grant, dedicated volunteers and a special thank you to Bobbi Welke and Mike Weede. Bobbi spent many winter hours editing the narrative text and both worked together to install the signs.

New this summer, Wednesdays and Saturdays we are offering back to back activities. Start your day out at the Whiskey Point Light Tower. The tower opens at 11 and at noon we feature our Picnic at the Point Series (Wednesdays only). Each week will focus on a variety of Island topics, and the tower closes at 1. After climbing the tower, proceed to the Protar Home. His site is open from 1-3 on both days as well.

We have new books in the giftshops. This summer we have several maritime titles by Frederick Stonehouse for sale. Fred is an “expert” for the National Geographic Explorer and History Channel. He has taught many Great Lakes Maritime history classes for Northern Michigan University. Other new items include children’s books, Michigan Mittens, artisan Beaver Island Historical Society mugs by our local potter Larissa McGinnity, and an assortment of vintage American made toys.

Board Members 2019

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STAFF

LORI TAYLOR-BLITZ—DIRECTOR
 SHAROLYN HUNTER—ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 ROB COLE—ORAL HISTORY
 MATTHEW SWARTHOUT - INTERN

Sad News!



Sandy Birdsall

We regret to share the passing of our former treasurer Sandy Birdsall on June 28, 2019. Sandy served as our treasurer for many years. She will surely be missed by her family and friends!



Antje Price

Antje Price, age 96, died in her sleep in the Schenley Gardens Nursing Home in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on April 23, 2019. She was born in Kiel, Germany on May 31, 1922, and eventually moved with her family to Ann Arbor

Michigan. She graduated from Michigan State Normal School (later called Eastern Michigan University) with a degree in occupational therapy and became a certified occupational therapist in 1944. Subsequently, she worked for many decades as an occupational therapist. She spent many summers on Beaver Island, Michigan, where she became well known as a nature-lover and as a contributor to the Beaver Island Historical Society. She is the author of Protar: A Different Life, a biography of Feodor Protar, who settled on Beaver Island in the late 1800s. Ms. Price is survived by her sister, Liese Bronfenbrenner, several cousins, and many nieces and nephews.

Construction to Resume in late August



Even though the Print Shop is reduced in size for the summer, we are still open with new exhibits and displays.

Construction Timeline

The addition and rehabilitation work will get underway just after the Island's homecoming Celebration, in mid-August. The addition will be enclosed before winter so the interior work will be ongoing throughout the winter/spring period. A June 2020 completion is planned.

McDonough Construction has recently been approved by the Board of Trustees to continue as the contractor for this work. This continuation was an allowance within the original Request for Proposal (RFP) which was issued to multiple firms for consideration. Their excellent work with construction of the Porch and the design development of the addition justified this continued partnership.

Bobbi Welke, BIHS Building Committee / Treasurer

Construction progress

The Print Shop is officially under construction. Starting last September, the Print Shop underwent some significant deconstruction. The McDonough Construction crew made a quick project of taking off the back of the Print Shop, the front porch and then starting the reconstruction process.

With the back of the Print Shop off we were able to start clearing some of the back yard for the future addition. This spring a new well was drilled by Bud Martin Excavating and Well Drilling. This will provide the water for the museum as the addition begins to be reconstructed. When the back of the museum came off, this area included the restroom. This summer we will have a temporary portable restroom placed in the back corner of the lot. Flush restrooms are available down the street at the community center as well as across the street from the BI Yacht Dock.

The construction of the new front porch was completed Memorial Day weekend. The siding, and windows were replaced, reinforced, and painted. This all happened while maintaining the appearance and historical feel. Work plans are put on hold for the summer so that our Island visitors and residents can continue to enjoy the museum. The design plans of the completed project are in the Print Shop museum. Feel free to stop in and look at the schematic design.

So....Save The Date: June 20, 2020 for the Museums' open house!



New Print Shop docent desk in memory of Rod Nackerman built by Charlie Creasser

Volunteers are our *Life Blood*

Our docent training was conducted on Friday June 14, 2019. We had 20 docents attend the training. There were a few of the docents that have not arrived on the Island yet that will also be helping this summer. We still need additional docents for the many summer programs that we have scheduled.

As with many organizations our life blood is our volunteers. You are the people that make the biggest impact on tourists and are usually are the front face for the Historical Society. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work it is helping us keep the museums and the Historical Society running.

As you glance at the upcoming events there are several openings that need to be filled with a docent or volunteer representative. We have just started filling the Whiskey Point Lighthouse positions as well as the Protar positions. These two positions will be on Wednesdays and Saturdays. If you would like to pick up a shift at one of these locations, please call the office so that we can add you to the list. Even if you are just available one day, we would love to include you on our schedule.

Please look at the schedule and see if any of the onetime events might be of interest to you. We have some interesting speakers and programs never offered previously and would really appreciate having a volunteer representative at each of these events.

Some special recognition

We would like to thank the following volunteers for stepping up to the plate on some last minute needs.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who worked to make our facilities more accessible during our shoulder season.

John Fiegen for helping us price and display the stacks of books in our gift shop.

Tracy Paquin for all of your help with the Fremont Middle School students that were painting the signs.

Al Vicstein for all his help with our technology issues and the new server.

Sue Oole, Dale Scamehorn, Judi Meister and Michael Finn at the Protar's Home.

Tracy Paquin and Susan McDermont for working on the Protar's Grave.

Karl Bartel for the beautiful hand crafted bench in memory of his mother and longtime BIHS volunteer Joyce Bartels.

Svetlana and Marsha Stebbins for landscaping the Print Shop flower beds.

John McCann's donation of a model of the boat Venus at the Marine Museum.

P.J. Neuhaus for donating a plate from Mrs. Redding's Cabin.

Special Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors:

Beaver Island Boat Company
 B.I. Chamber of Commerce
 Beaver Island Association
 Dalwhinnie /McDonoughs Market
 Island Airways
 Deerwood Holdings
 McDonoughs Construction



Summer Schedule

We are gearing up for a busy and fun filled summer. Our construction is not holding us back and is prompting us to work harder than ever to showcase Beaver Island History. The following are some of the summer programs and schedule of events. For additional information on times and locations check our website www.beaverislandhistory.org or call (231) 448-2254

- Print Shop and Marine Museum Hours: June - Aug 31 Monday-Saturday 11-5, Sunday 1-4
- Whiskey Point Tower Tour June 19 - August 28 on Wednesday and Saturday 11-1
- Protar Home Tours June 19 - August 28 on Wednesdays and Saturdays 1-3
- Picnic at the Point Speaker Series Noon - 1PM every Wednesday now through November 13. For a complete list of speakers and topics see our website
- Vintage book readings at the Library July 25, August 22, Sept 26 starts at 7
- This Place Matters Music on the Porch SERIES
 - July 14: Beaver Head Light
 - July 15: Print Shop
 - July 20: Protar's House
 - Aug. 10: Marine Museum
 - Aug. 18: Protar's House
 - Sept 6 & 7 Print Shop "Emerald Isle Irish Feile"
- Beaver and Beyond Strang Speaker Series 7pm
 - July 17 Grand Traverse Lighthouse - Stef Staley
 - Kingdom Forgotten - Laurie Lounsbury
 - Sept. 18 Charlevoix Historical Society 12—1
 - Oct. 9 The Island of Strang 12—1
- Walking Tours Thursdays 2pm meet in front of the BIC Center ends August 29.

MUSEUM WEEK

JULY 14 – 20, 2019

Sunday

Beaver head Lighthouse
This Place Matters 12 - 4

Monday

@ Print Shop
Music on the Porch 7– 10

Tuesday

@ St. James Twp. Hall
Jingle Dress Dance 2-3
Stone Circle Panel 3-5

Wednesday

@ S. J. Episcopal Church
Strang Speaker Series 7-9
Stef Staley
Laurie Lounsbury

Thursday

@ S. J. Episcopal Church
Frank Mays 7-9
Carl D Bradley Shipwreck

Friday

@ Community Center 7-9
Gregory Wittkopp
"Hauling in the Net"

Saturday

@ Protar Home 1-4
Open House and Music

Monday - Wednesday

@ Heritage Park 12-4
Blacksmiths Demonstrations

Wednesday- Friday

Gregg Fellowship Hall 11-5
Museum Week Art Show

HISTORY ON THE WATER

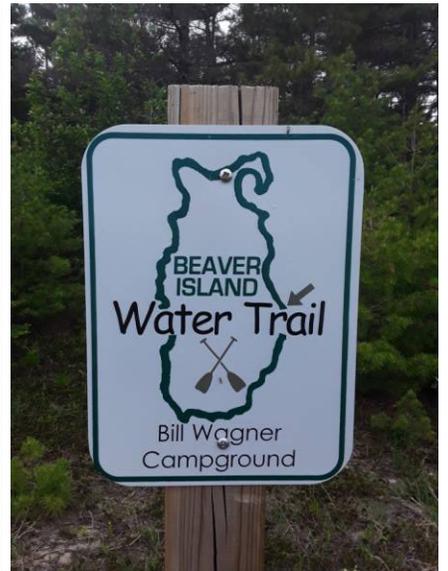
The Beaver Island Waters Trail

All the Great Lakes have a Circle Tour that have a planned route you can follow, to drive around each of the Lakes. Lake Michigan Tours have three options 1). A full circle-driving through all four states that boarder Lake Michigan. (Fun Fact: Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake that is entirely surrounded by the United States. The other four Great Lakes boarder Canada.) 2). A northern circle where you can take one of the ferry boats, the SS Badger or Lake Express and drive north around the top of the Lake. 3). Take one of the ferries and drive south around the lower portion of Lake Michigan. **Now** we can add a fourth option and that is to kayak around Beaver Island that is surrounded by Lake Michigan.

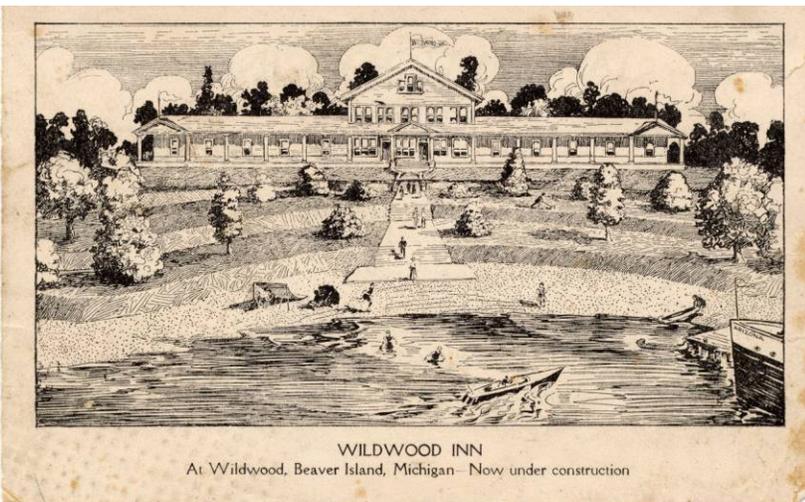
The Water Trail was put into place late during late fall of 2018. The trail is approximately 42 miles long. There are 17 Water Trail signs marking the trail along the route. There are two campgrounds directly on the Lake where you can camp over night and divide up your circle, thereby enjoying the beauty of the island and the Lake. During your paddle around the lake you are likely to see many different birds, both water birds as well as land birds. During the spring when the birds are migrating there is a wide variety of our feathered friends that will use Beaver Island as a stopping point. The two lighthouses on Beaver Island are visible from the trail. An additional third light can be seen from St. James Campground. Lansing Shoal Lighthouse is approximately 12 miles north of the northern tip of Beaver Island. The light is an active aid to navigation with a 10 seconds white flash pattern. The light is off for just over 5 seconds and on for just under 5 seconds. The additional lights you see beyond the lighthouse are those in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.



In the northern part of the trail you are likely to notice a very tall white cross. This cross marks the location where Bishop Baraga developed a Catholic church to teach the Anishinaabe about the Christian faith. There are several nature preserves along the route as well that are open to the public with light hiking trails. Please be cautious of nesting shore birds as well as endangered dune grasses and flowers.



As you approach the southeast location of the island at the Cables Bay stop you will find cement pilings on shore. These are remnants of the old Wildwood Inn. This was a large fully constructed hotel that was ready to open until the depression hit in the 1920's. The tragic story of the death of an island child at the hotel and the inability of the inn keeper to pay the construction bills caused the deconstruction of the hotel. The hotel that was to entice tourists to visit the island never opened to one guest. The Wildwood Inn was designed by the same architect that designed the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.



Continuing to the south end of the island you are likely to notice cribs in the water from the logging era and if you are fortunate to look down at the right time you may even see the remnants of the Schooner Bessie Smith. She lays in approximately 15 feet of water. She ran aground November 1, 1873 with a load of iron ore.

This 42-mile journey should not be taken lightly. Lake Michigan can be vicious and sometimes unpredictable. You can download a copy of the Beaver Island Water Trail brochure at www.michiganwatertrails.org. You can also purchase a water-resistant copy of the trail brochure from the Beaver Island Community Center. It is highly recommended that before heading out on the trail you leave

a float plan with a friend, or family member. Let them know what direction you are going to travel, where you plan on spending the night and how long you plan on taking to paddle around the Island. Keep in mind that there are areas that you are unlikely to have cell phone coverage. You should also check in at the Beaver Island Community Center (BIC) for "voluntary safety compliance" prior to heading out. If for some reason you do not return when anticipated BIC can notify the proper authorities to check on your safety.



Historic images are part of the BIHS Historic Photograph Collection



Taking a walk through time

Have you noticed several new signs posted around town? Have you met Pierre? You will want to take the time to stop and read each of them. These are new BIHS Walking Tour Signs. Recently, 16 of the 17 signs were posted around the downtown area of St. James. The final sign will be installed once some fence repair at the St James Township Cemetery is completed. The interpretive signs share meaningful locations with our visitor audience and share the historical significance of each location.

While they are numbered a person does not have to follow them in order since it loops around and ends near the Community Center.



Meet Pierre he will guide you on your walk

HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR – THE SHAMROCK

Stop 17: Originally called the Village Inn, this building was built as a dance hall and ice cream parlor and located across the street. When moved to this location in 1933, it was converted to a tavern. The name was changed to the Shamrock in 1937. Wakes, weddings, and at least one murder trial (for a crime on High Island) were held in this establishment. This is the final Stop. We don't think Pierre would ever raise a pint himself. He has too many responsibilities as a tour guide, but he does want to congratulate you for completing this 2 1/2-mile historical walking tour. Pierre would like you to visit his lodge (Marine Museum) and den (Print Shop) when you get a chance. The Beaver Island Historical Society hopes you enjoyed your tour.



Your tour is sponsored by the Beaver Island Historical Society with funding graciously provided by The People Fund from Great Lakes Energy. The QR Code will take you to the Society's Website at www.beaverislandhistory.org which will introduce you to Island history.

We hope you will take the time to take a walk through our history. The walk is approximately 2.5 miles. It will vary how long it will take a person, since they may want to spend more time at some stops. It will also encourage people to go into the museums to learn additional information about the island history.

On Wednesdays this summer at 2pm we will be offering a narrated walking tour with a local guide. If you would like to participate in one of these free tours just meet in front of the Community Center a few minutes prior to the beginning of the walk. These guided walks will be a reduced version of the full walk and will last approximately 30 minutes.

Brochures will be available in both museums and at the Community Center.

Historical Walking Tour

1 inch = 500 feet



1. DOWNTOWN BEAVER ISLAND
2. BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
3. BEAVER ISLAND FERRY DOCK/BOATS
4. BEAVER ISLAND MUNICIPAL DOCK
5. POST OFFICE
6. KING STRANG HOTEL/CLUB
7. MARINA/ORIGINAL BEAVER ISLAND LUMBER CO
8. McDONOUGH'S ORIGINAL MARKET
9. MARINE MUSEUM
10. U.S. LIFE SAVING/COAST GUARD STATION
11. BEAVER ISLAND TOWNSHIPS CEMETERY
12. FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH
13. BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL
14. HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL
15. TOWN BEACH/NATIVE AMERICAN ANCESTRY
16. PRINT SHOP
17. THE SHAMROCK

Beaver Island Oral History Project Update

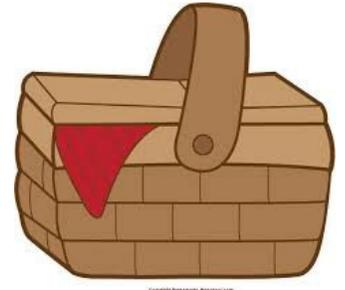
Robert Cole, who led the BIHS Oral History Project in the early 2000's under late Director Bill Cashman, has returned for the summer to help make the archives more accessible and searchable by the public. Lori Taylor-Blitz will be guiding Robert in 'tagging' content from some of the many interviews of elderly islanders and island-related people by subject, so that an eventual online database of select materials can be searched by subject and topic - such as

- commercial fishing
- Irish immigration
- tribal history
- Genealogy

A public 'listening station' is planned for installation in the Marine Museum, while the future database will be attached to the BIHS website, including audio and video recordings and interview transcripts dating back to the 1960's. With Robert combing through select materials and entering such descriptive 'meta-data' into a comprehensive spreadsheet covering the archives, both remote and on-site visitors to BIHS will be able to more easily, digitally search and research historic Beaver Island topics of interest. This summer's work is part of an ongoing effort to digitize and present more of the Historical Society's varied treasures online.



**Picnics at The Point
A Lunch Time Speaker Series
12-1pm
Rain or Shine at the St. James Township Hall**



- July**
 3 History on water trails
 10 Print shop history
 17 An Island of Strang
 31 Library history
- August**
 7 Music Festival history
 14 Baroque on Beaver Island history
 21 Beaver Island environmental history
 28 Ferry history
- September**
 4 Shipwreck history
 11 Beaver Island military history
 18 Strang Series: Charlevoix
 25 Boat building history
- October**
 2 Commercial fishing history
 9 Lighthouse history
 16 Economic history 1
 23 Economic history 2
 30 Medical history
- November**
 6 Historical photos
 13 Lunch with Beaver Island Historical Society



Bring your lunch and relax, listen to a speaker and enjoy the beautiful view.

Topics are subject to change please check at the Print shop for updates.



MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31

We would like to help the Beaver Island Historical Society in its mission of Keeping Island History alive by becoming members or renewing at the indicated level:

- Student/Senior \$25.00 ____
- Couple \$50.00 ____
- Sustaining \$250.00 ____
- Individual \$35.00 ____
- Family \$100 ____
- Benefactor \$500 ____
- Corporate \$750.00 ____

P.O. BOX 263, BEAVER ISLAND, MI 49782
 bihistory@tds.net
 231.448.2254
 www.beaverislandhistory.org

Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email Address: _____

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 263
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